Conflict diamond

2562. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry differed with the Ministry of Mines on the issue of conflict diamond;

(b) if so, whether the issue has been sorted out;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) Conflict diamonds are rough diamonds whose trade is prohibited by the United Nations Security Council because the proceeds of that trade are used by the rebel movements and their allies to finance their activities, including attempts to undermine or overthrow legitimate goverments. In pursuance of the resolution No. 55/56 (2000) adopted by UN General Assembly, the Kimberley Process was initiated to regulate the movement of rough diamonds and curb trading in conflict diamonds. The aim of the Kimberley Process is to formulate concrete proposals for a system of Certificate of Origin for trade in rough diamonds and for appropriate arrangement to ensure compliance. After the Ministerial meeting held at Interlaken, Switzerland on 5th November, 2002, the KP Certification Scheme (KPCS) was launched on 1st January, 2003 including in India. Implementation is based on respective laws of the participating nations and internal system of control meeting the standards established in the Documents of KPCS. Kimberley Process Certificate (KPC) means a forgery resistant document in a particular format, which identifies a shipment of rough diamonds as being in compliance with the requirements of the certification scheme. KPC accompanies each shipment of rough diamonds on export/import. Therefore, the question of any conflict of opinion with Ministry of Mines on issue of conflict diamonds does not arise.

Intellectual Property Rights Appellate Tribunal

2563. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Intellectual Property Rights Appellate Tribunal to adjudicate disputes under the TRIPS has been set up;